

SECRET

Approved For Release 2004/03/11 : CIA-RDP83-01042R000800010007-7

20 AUG 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Review Staff


VIA : Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Senate Select Committee Request
(ARTICHOKE/ERGOT)

1. Reference is made to a previous memorandum from the Director of Security, same subject, which forwarded certain documents from the Office of Security unnumbered file entitled "ERGOT" as requested by Mr. Maxwell of the Senate Select Committee Staff.

2. As indicated in reference, two of those documents requested by Mr. Maxwell are Third Agency material. Three copies of these two Third Agency documents are forwarded herewith, consisting of one Department of State document and one Department of Army document.

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Robert W. Gambino
Director of Security

Att

Distribution:

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DCE 4176

CONFIDENTIAL
SECURITY INFORMATION

Acting Chief, TG/SO
THRU: Reports Control/SO
Acting Chief, Information Branch, SI

19 January 1952

Shipment of Ergot of Rye or Phenol Crystals to Hungary. DAS #1507

Reference: State Despatch, Antwerp #109, dated 19 September 1951

1. Attached for your information is a thermoprint of reference despatch which we discussed a short time ago and which you agreed to accept for action.

2. We request that, if possible, the material that was shipped be positively identified, i.e., was it actually ergot of rye, phenol crystals or some other substance.

3. If it is ascertained that the material shipped was ergot, the following information is requested:

- a. Original British source of the material.
- b. Destination of the shipment in Hungary.
- c. Intended end use of the ergot in Hungary.

4. We would also appreciate being informed of any evidence of accelerated movement of ergot from Western Europe to Iron Curtain countries.

5. In reply, please refer to DAS #1507.

1.D.-1638 - Bussell
sub. designation -
31 March 52
URB-W-1911



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CONTROL - [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Excerpt from Scientific Intelligence Digest
No. 52-14

SOVIET BLOC ACQUISITION OF ERGOT AND ERGOT DERIVATIVES MAY HAVE CW
SIGNIFICANCE:

CIA
9 Jul 52
Confidential

The Polish People are being urged by radio to collect ergot and send it to the provincial ergot-buying officer because "considerable quantities of raw, unprocessed ergot are needed in a certain chemical process."

In other reports it has been stated further that:

1. The Soviets purchased from Sandoz, a Swiss drug manufacturing company in Basel, a sufficient quantity of an ergot derivative for 50,000,000 normal doses.

2. Portuguese agents have canvassed Spain purchasing large amounts of ergot at very high prices for shipment behind the "Iron Curtain" through Portuguese ports.

3. Hungary purchased 35 tons of ergot from Belgium through Centralimpex.

Comment [REDACTED] The subject information, which is considered true, plus reports from various other sources of numerous large and small purchases of ergot and its derivatives by the Satellites throughout the world, confirm the notable interest of the Soviet Bloc in these substances. From ergot, a fungus disease of rye, other cereals, and wild grasses, there is obtained a valuable drug used for controlling hemorrhage, for uterine contraction, and for numerous other important medical purposes.

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It is pointed out, however, that ergot is also an effective mental confusion agent and has been considered, therefore, as a possible CW material. The above reports strengthen the probability that the Soviets are processing ergot for military as well as medicinal purposes.

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SS ROUTING SLIP

STATINTL

[Empty box for routing slip content]

FOR:

Assume

Circulation

yes are

Action

continuing to

Coordination

below this

Information

y

Filing

Carding

ERGOT

FORM NO. 59-93
AUG 1953

(40)

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		
11/13 DATE		
TO:		
BUILD		
REMARKS:		
FROM: <i>R. V. Lambrecht</i>		
BUILDING	ROOM NO.	EXTENSION
<i>Otto Eye</i>	<i>2409</i>	
FORM NO. 36-8 SEP 1946		

STATINTL

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